

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 H-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 995

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BDIS, BGEN, ET

SUBJECT: MANDRELL INDUSTRIES

REF: (A) ADDIS ABABA 9206, (B) ADDIS 0434, (C) 75 ADDIS ABABA 14085

(D) STATE 012491

1. GEORGE GLASSCOE CALLED ON COMMERCIAL ATTACHE SEPT 16 TO REPORT A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD A FEW DAYS EARLIER WITH TOM F. CAREY, JR., ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL OF GEOSOURCES (PARENT COMPANY OF MANDRELL). ACCORDING TO GLASSCOE, CAREY SUGGESTED IN AN OBLIQUE MANNER THAT GLASSCOE ATTEMPT TO FLEE ETHIOPIA SURRETITIOUSLY. GLASSCOE SAID HE DID NOT REACT TO THAT SUGGESTION AT THE TIME OUT OF FEAR THAT CALL MIGHT BE MONITORED. HOWEVER, GLASSCOE HAS ASKED THE EMBASSY TO PASS THE MESSAGE TO MANDRELL THAT SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. EMBASSY IS IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH GLASSCOE THAT THE CHANCE OF SUCCESS IS VERY SLIGHT AND THAT ANY ATTEMPT WHICH FAILED WOULD ONLY FURTHER COMPLICATE MANDRELL'S AND GLASSCOE'S PROBLEMS. A SUCCESSFUL ESCAPTE BY GLASSCOE WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR MANDRELL TO "WALK AWAY" FROM ETHIOPIA. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR USG AS WELL AS FOR OTHER US FIRMS IN ETHIOPIA.

2. GLASSCOE IS GROWING INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED AT THE LACK OF PROGRESS WHICH THE BRITISH EMBASSY HAS HAD IN ATTEMPTING TO SECURE AN EXIST VISA FOR HIM. GLASSCOE WAS QUITE DEPRESSED DURING THE CONVERSATION. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH

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MANDRELL STATING THAT IF THE COMPANY SEEMED TO BE LOOKING TO HIS

ILLEGAL FLIGHT AS THE ANSWER TO THEIR PROBLEMS IN ETHIOPIA, THEN THERE WAS LITTLE CHANCE HE WOULD EVER GET OUT. GLASSCOE SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO GET THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO STEP UP THE PRESSURE ON THE EPMG TO ALLOW HIM TO LEAVE BUT HE DIDN'T SEEM OPTIMISTIC THAT SUCH A PLAN WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

3. GLASSCOE REPORTED NOTHING NEW ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CASE. THE EPMG HAS REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE ASSURANCES OF PAYMENT OFFERED BY MANDRELL AND CONTINUES TO INSIST ON A "PROPER GUARANTEE" OR THE PROVISION OF A REPLACEMENT EXPATRIATE AS THE CONDITION FOR GLASSCOE'S RELEASE. A PROPER GUARANTEE APPARENTLY CONSIST OF A CASH DEPOSIT IN ETHIOPIA OR AN IRON-CLAD IRREVOKALBE LETTER OF CREDIT FROM AN AMERICAN BANK. THUS FAR MANDRELL HAS SHOWN NO WILLINGNESS TO SUPPLY EITHER FORM OF GUARANTEE OR REPLACEMENT FOR GLASSCOE.

4. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT GLASSCOE'S REACTION CAREY'S SUGGESTION AND EMBASSY COMMENTS ON PROPOSED ESCAPE BY GLASSCOE BE PASSED TO MR. CAREY.
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